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SECURITY INFORMATION

EAWW-634  
NAV.M.664

AJR

FEB 2 1953

Chief of Mission, Vienna  
Chief, ER

Attention:

REBERT/ESVEN

Arthur van Cooten

Ref. EAWW-663  
DIR 21027  
DIR 12916

1. The record of previous experience with Arthur Marcel van Cooten convinces Headquarters that field proposal for using his services as spy for Swedish leads for recruitment of indigenous agents should be rejected. Near thorough presentation has given Headquarters a complete dossier on Arthur van Cooten which serves to confirm conclusions previously reached by various interested offices.

2. A brief record of previous INRAM experience with subject includes the following:

WE/FI/4

1. A case officer now located here, who had personal contacts with van Cooten in 1942, says that van Cooten is not really worthy of any operational exploitation. In the past, van Cooten gave us no end of trouble, with vague allegations against people, information which later proved to be either insubstantive or false. Subject is described as a man of no substance.

2. At one time, subject proposed to REACH that we finance an operation for the defection of Russian military personnel when he believed he could contact. He expressed interest, but conditioned any financial support on the production of at least one defector, which he stated would be evidence of subject's ability and good faith. He reported Kozlov as a defector who had arrived in Munich. Kozlov disappeared before we could get our hands on him. Subject also reported Frank Smolov, a Russian agent. He also failed to materialize. (DIR.M.10722, 12 March 1952)

3. In February 1952 it was proposed to use van Cooten as cover for a   refugee center in Vienna. (DIR.M.6634). When  was informed regarding van Cooten's activities, he stated that he

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would call [ ] to hold off as he did not believe von Geyden would be suitable for the job proposed. (NSA-1379, 20 February 1952)

3. As stated in DEX 25208, all FF proposals are being closely scrutinized and those of marginal value are not recommended. Support of the publication "Luch" would definitely come under the marginal category.

4. Although the financial commitment would be relatively minor, Headquarters believes that in view of the above, even such limited expenditure would not be justified.

EWV - 15 January 1953

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